

SSA 63-0204

THRU : SSA/DDS
: Chief, NE

13 March 1963

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- Claim for Shipment and Storage of Household Effects in Excess of Weight Allowance.

1. I would like to request a reconsideration of the decision contained in OCG 63-0092 (a) dated 11 January 1963, on several grounds:

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a. In respect to [redacted] to the effect that "Special handling and additional protection for articles of unusual value will be at the expense of the employee unless the authorizing official determines that it would be inappropriate to ship them," I would like to submit that I did not request a special determination from the authorizing official simply because I had never been made aware of the need to do so. My instructions were that I should "restrict my household shipment to an absolute minimum of essentials," and "store everything else" since

(1) a fully furnished house would be provided.

(2) shipment of household goods to [redacted] was expensive and uncertain.

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(3) All transport to [redacted] had to go via truck over unpaved roads and high mountain passes where safe arrival of breakables could not be guaranteed.

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It appears to me that such instructions imply, even though they do not expressly state, that it would be "inappropriate to ship articles of unusual value," and that, in fact, the intent of the authorizing official was to save the Government the money for transportation since storage here is certainly less than shipment to and from [redacted]

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b. Paragraph 4 of the decision makes the assumption that even if I had "received advance authority for special handling and additional protection of (the) articles of unusual value, (I) would still have exceeded the weight allowance fixed by regulation, etc." It goes on to quote Section 4 CIA Act of 1949 as amended which provides that "in no instance shall the weight or volume of the effects stored, together with the weight or volume of the effects transported, exceed the maximum limitation fixed by regulation." It has been clearly established that the weight shipped was at least 1800 lbs less than the allowable maximum. The net weight of the goods stored was only 13,625 lbs against an allowable maximum of 16,000 lbs. The only reason why I exceeded the "maximum" is that for some strange reason the weight of overseas packing material is added to items not shipped, a strange bureaucratic reasoning indeed. At any rate I have already paid the cost of any special packing and any excess weight over and beyond the cost of items shipped and stored per the regulations quoted above. What is at issue now is the cost of items stored because they could not be shipped to the post to which I was assigned due to the special circumstances prevailing at the post.

2. It appears to me, therefore, that I have made a prima facie case that the remaining expense of \$350.73 was incurred clearly at the convenience of the Government and pursuant to instructions received by me from authorized officials and that, therefore, I should be granted relief from at least that unwarranted extra expense.

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